

Free Tours of the El Paso Museum of Archaeology

Admission and tours of the El Paso Museum of Archaeology are **free**. We focus on the human occupation of the El Paso area and the Southwest from 14,000 years ago to the present. Tours may be arranged with two weeks notice and, for children's groups, we request one adult chaperone for every 10 children. Contact Marilyn Guida, 915-755-4332 or guidamr@elpasotexas.gov.

Entry & Lobby ~ You'll experience hands-on exhibits including a full-size walk-in model of a pueblo room, artifacts to handle, a toy display with photos of *Children of the Americas*, and *How old is it?*, an interactive exhibit explaining dating of sites. Additionally we have exhibits on: tree-ring dating, *What archaeologists do*, and a loom. You will also see maps of the Southwest locating contemporary Indian villages and reservations as well as prehistoric culture areas and sites. Our gift shop offers intriguing items for children and adults including toys, books, jewelry, and pottery.

South Gallery ~ Dioramas depict everyday scenes in Indian life of the Paleoindians of over 10,000 years ago, Hunters and Gatherers of Archaic times, horticultural pit-dwellers, Pueblo cliff dwellers, and the Mescalero Apache including the Mountain Spirit Dancers who are still performing ceremonies today.

North Gallery ~ As you enter the gallery, there is an exhibit of fossils of the El Paso area, then tools and tool-making materials from the Paleoindian, Archaic, and Late Prehistoric periods. The east hallway showcases the Jornada Mogollon people who lived in this region prehistorically and presents the artifacts they left behind. In the northeast corner is an exhibit of historic baskets from the Hopi, Navajo, Apache, O'odham, and *Rarámuri* Indians. The north hallway displays Mogollon painted pottery, including Mimbres and Casas Grandes with examples of the recent Mata Ortiz village pottery revival. Included are plaques illustrating the Mimbres Twins myth. In the northwest corner you will see historic and modern pueblo pottery. In the west hallway are artifacts from Precolumbian México, concluding with an exhibit of modern artifacts from the *Rarámuri* Indians of northwestern Chihuahua, México.

Auditorium Gallery ~ Temporary exhibits: Check with museum staff for the current exhibit or go to the Exhibits section of the website. Don't miss the artifact-filled drawers in this gallery.

Outdoor Exhibits ~ Fifteen acres of nature trails circle the museum and include over 200 species of native plants. There are also several archaeological exhibits, including models of an Apache wickiup, a teepee of lodge poles with rock ring, an agave roasting pit, a Pueblo ruin, rock art and an Indian Garden. Trail tours are available.